

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A network configuration comprising:
  - 2 a first device that is unconfigured and connected to the network; and
  - 3 a second device that is configured and connected to the network, wherein
  - 4 the second device sends over the network at least a portion of its configuration
  - 5 information,
  - 6 wherein the at least a portion of the configuration information of the second
  - 7 device is used to create configuration information for the first device.
- 8 2. The network configuration recited in claim 1 wherein the first device modifies
- 9 the configuration information of the second device to create configuration
- 10 information for itself.
- 11 3. The network configuration recited in claim 1 wherein the first device is capable
- 12 of sending over the network a request for configuration information.
- 13 4. The network configuration recited in claim 2 wherein the second device sends
- 14 its configuration information in response to the request for configuration
- 15 information from the first device.
- 16 5. The network configuration recited in claim 1 wherein the configuration
- 17 information for the first device is address configuration information.
- 18 6. The network recited in claim 1 wherein the configuration information created
- 19 for the first device is the IP address of the first device.

1 7. The network recited in claim 1 wherein the second device is not required to be  
2 a server.

3 8. The network recited in claim 1 wherein the configuration information create for  
4 the first device is created by the first device modifying the at least a portion of the  
5 configuration information of the second device.

6 9. A computer-implemented method of transferring network information,  
7 including configuration information, between at least a first and second device  
8 connected to the network, including the steps of:

9 sending from the second device that is connected to and configured for the  
10 network at least a portion of its configuration information; and

11 using the at least a portion of the configuration information sent from the  
12 second device to create configuration information for the first device, wherein the  
13 first device is connected to the network and initially unconfigured.

14 10. The method recited in claim 9 further including the step of sending from the  
15 first device a request on the network for configuration information.

16 11. The method recited in claim 10 wherein the second device responds to the  
17 request from the first device for configuration information with at least a portion  
18 of its configuration information.

19 12. The method recited in claim 9 further including the step of determining  
20 whether to accept the at least of portion of the configuration information from the  
21 second device.

1 13. The method recited in claim 9 further including the step of determining  
2 whether configuration address information was received from a compatible device.

3 14. The method recited in claim 9 further including the step of generating a  
4 subnet mask from the at least a portion of configuration information of the second  
5 device.

6 15. The method recited in claim 9 wherein after the first device is configured, the  
7 second device may respond to the first device with network information other than  
8 configuration information.

9 16. The method recited in claim 9 wherein the second device responds both with  
10 at least a portion of its configuration information and other network information.

11 17. The method recited in claim 9 further including the step of the second device  
12 responding with the network information other than configuration information.

13 18. The method recited in claim 15 wherein the other network information is  
14 SYSLOG information.

15 19. The method recited in claim 9 further including the step of communicating  
16 with second device or other devices on the network that the first device that was  
17 previously unconfigured is now configured and available for use.

18 20. The method recited in claim 9 wherein the configuration information of the  
19 second device is used to create an IP address for the first device.

1 21. The method recited in claim 18 further including the step of confirming that  
2 the IP address created for the first device is not currently in use.

3 22. The method recited in claim 9 wherein the step of creating information for the  
4 first device includes the step of combining a portion of a configuration address  
5 information from the second device with a device portion address of the first  
6 device.

7 23. The method recited in claim 20 wherein the device portion address of the first  
8 device is generated using a hash algorithm.

9 24. A network configuration comprising:

10 a first device that is unconfigured and connected to the network, the first  
11 device being capable of sending over the network a request for configuration  
12 information; and

13 a second device that is configured and connected to the network, wherein  
14 responsive to the request for configuration information from the first device, the  
15 second device responds with at least a portion of its configuration information,  
16 wherein the at least a portion of the configuration information of the second  
17 device is used to create configuration information for the first device.

18 25. A computer-implemented method of transferring network information,  
19 including configuration information, between at least a first and second device  
20 connected to the network, including the steps of:

21 sending from the first device, wherein the first device is unconfigured, a  
22 request on the network for configuration information;

1            wherein a second device configured for the network, responsive to the  
2 request on the network for configuration information, responds with at least a  
3 portion of its configuration information; and  
4            using the at least a portion of the configuration information of the second  
5 device, to create configuration information for the first device.

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